

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-11 and 13 and claims 5 and 13 have been amended to be in independent form and to overcome the 112 rejections as shown in currently amended claims 5 and 13.

Attached hereto are corrected formal drawings for Figures 1, 2 and 3 wherein Figures 1 and 2 are now designated by a legend "Prior Art" as requested. Figure 3 has been corrected to include cross hatchings around the cross section of the annular central member 60 in order to clarify what the drawing intends to show.

Claims 4 and 8 have been amended to clarify the limitation "the walls" which was intended to read "the radially inner and outer walls of the central member" as shown in currently amended claims 4 and 8. Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled.

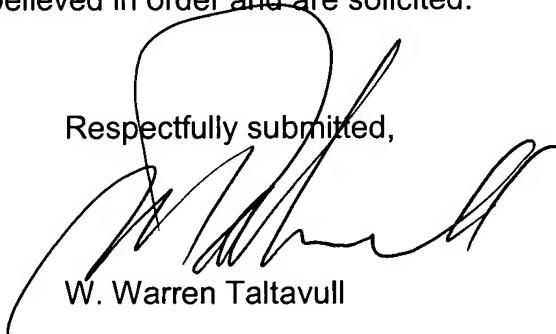
Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection to claims 1-4 and 12 as being anticipated by STROEM et al. (US 4549847) for reasons indicated below.

The present invention is directed to an annular pre-diffuser. The diffuser described in STROEM et al. is disclosed as a "pipe-type diffuser" (Col. 1 line 48) wherein the diffuser 16 has a conical housing 34 which is symmetric about axis 36 and has a circular entrance 38 adapted to receive a gas (Col. 3 lines 3-8). The entire pre-diffuser of the present invention is annular in that the radially inner and outer walls each extend entirely about the axis X-X of Figure 1. Similarly, the

central member 60 extends in an annular manner entirely about the axis X-X of Figure 1.

Therefore, STROEM et al. does not anticipate the present invention because the diffuser of STROEM et al. is set inside a conical housing whereas the present invention discloses an annular diffuser.

Entry of this amendment is solicited, is believed appropriate, and is believed to distinguish the invention from the cited references. For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance are believed in order and are solicited.



Respectfully submitted,
W. Warren Taltavull

Manelli Denison & Selter PLLC
2000 M Street N.W
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 261 1047
Reg. No. 25647